

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15-38 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Preliminarily, Applicants thank the Examiner for his suggested title. Applicants agree, and therefore, have amended the title to be largely consistent with the suggestion. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 15-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Spiller *et al.* (US 3,676,171) in view of Lepilleur *et al.* (US 6,306,945), or Lepilleur *et al.* in view of Spiller *et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

With regard to the first rejection of Spiller in view of Lepilleur, the present invention is directed toward a composition comprising a mixture of three components: (a) titanium dioxide, (b) an organic resin, and (c) a zeolite. As acknowledged by the Examiner, Spiller does not teach two of the three components, *i.e.*, titanium dioxide and zeolite. See page 3, line 10, of Office Action dated May 8, 2008. Accordingly, the Examiner relies on Lepilleur to teach the other two components. Upon a closer reading, Lepilleur however teaches *modified* zeolites, *e.g.*, zeolites modified by shock annealing, coating, or a combination of the two methods. The present invention is directed toward compositions comprising conventional zeolites. Furthermore, the *modified* zeolites in Lepilleur are used as stabilizers. One skilled in the art would not have expected that these *modified* zeolites could be used also as pigment agents.

With regard to the second rejection of Lepilleur in view of Spiller, the Examiner indicates that Lepilleur is a solvated composition. See page 6, lines 11-12, of Office Action dated May 8, 2008. The present invention is directed toward compositions, in particulate form, containing a zeolite with less than 9 percent water by weight as determined by heating at 800 °C for 1 hour. Accordingly, even if the references were combined in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such a combination would not suggest the low-moisture content powder form of the present invention. Instead, it would suggest a stabilized solvated system.

Neither combination of Spiller in view of Lepilleur or Lepilleur in view of Spiller teaches the compositions of the present invention. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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